



*A Spiritual Oasis Committed to Christ,
to Peace, and to Service*

January 2023

Cedar Park First United Methodist Church

Connections

Newsletter

A Conversation with Hyacinth Fenty

Q: When was your first day at CPFUMC and what do you remember about it?

A: Fall of 2018. I remember that my daughter and I were warmly received by Pastor Peter, Pastor Bonnie and the entire congregation.



Q: Tell us about your family.

A: I have three children, two daughters, Heather Doughlin who resides in Florida and Brenda Higgins who is in Texas and where I reside with her and her husband, Gerald. I also have a son, Lloyd deLacy Ince who resides in Trinidad, West Indies. I have 11 grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren.

Q: Do you have any pets?

A: No.

Q: What do you like to do in your spare time? Or what takes up a lot of your time?

A: I love to play word games, such as: Scrabble, Words with Friends, etc. During the day, I like to cook and garden when I can.

MEMBERS continued on p. 6

Q: Tell us about what drew you to CPFUMC.

A: After the initial visit, I felt like part of a family and my involvement with the Lectionary Bible Class and Prayer Shawl Ministry.

Q: In what city did you grow up? Where do you live now?

A: I grew up in Barbados, West Indies. I now reside in Cedar Park, TX.

Q: What church did you come to CPFUMC from?

A: Calvary Church in Naperville, IL.

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BE LIGHT YOUTH - Check it out!

What a Christmas to remember! Thank you for all your support for the mission efforts of **BE LIGHT YOUTH** this December. The Santa Shop for Mom and Pop for A Child's Haven preschoolers was a smash hit along with the Tea and Treats gathering with the silent Auction PLUS gifting over 100 presents to the Seniors at the local nursing homes PLUS the Christmas poinsettias PLUS treats for the nursing staff – so many smiles and faces full of joy. PLUS we raised \$2400 for our Methodist Roots England 2024- WOW!!! What beautifully generous people of God you all are – life after life touched by your love. THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU

As the New Year begins, we are in need of lunches for our young people. Please sponsor BE LIGHT YOUTH lunch – sign up in the church lobby. Thanks for loving the BE LIGHT YOUTH in a crucial way.

NEED a task done around the house? Please consider hiring the BE LIGHT YOUTH to get your “to-do” completed. We rake leaves, handle Christmas lights, clear garages, minor repairs, yard work and more. Contact Pastor Suzette (suzette@cpfumc.org) to arrange details.

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2023

Sun Jan 1 – no youth

MONDAY Jan 2 – DE-greening the church, lunch and then Methodist Roots work day

Sun Jan 8

SS: hang out

YOUTH: England workday

Friday, Jan 13-15 District-wide MIDWINTERS Retreat

Sun Jan 15 NO YOUTH SS as we are at Midwinters

Saturday, Dec 21 – Methodist Roots work day

Sun Jan 22: Youth SS drum circle; No YOUTH after church as work day on Sat

SATURDAY Jan 28- 2pm MOMMA MIA musical sing-along supporting Jozi

Sun Jan 29 5TH SUNDAY – SS tacos and chill; YOUTH Women United in Faith activity

LOOKING AHEAD:

Feb 12: Confirmation resumes during SS

Sat 18-20 – possible short term mission trip

SATURDAY March 11 TOBY MAC concert in Cedar Park

Spring Break workday TBD

EASTER 4/9 EASTER Sunrise service – YOUTH lead worship

SAVE THE DATE

UMARMY Mission trip in June

NATIONAL METHODIST YOUTH Conference Daytona Beach Florida July 25-28

Peace, Pastor Suzette

CPFUMC Technology Plan for 2023

Each year the church makes updates to our Technology Plan to address how we will use technology and adapt to technology changes to support our ministries in the upcoming year. Our Technology Plan is prepared by the LAN Administrator and administered by the Trustees through approvals for expenditures from the Technology Fund, an off-budget designated fund. By purchasing 3 new computers in 2022, we made some progress in our goal of bringing all of the 14 church computers to have the capability to run Windows 11 before Microsoft ends Windows 10 support in October 2025. By purchasing 2 new routers, we also made some needed updates to our Wi-Fi infrastructure to address the increasing use of the latest generation Wi-Fi 6. This really helped out in the multi-ministries building as our Child's Haven preschool went to a new online registration and check-in/check-out system with relies on Wi-Fi and smartphones.



Our goal in 2023 is to get all church computers to the capability of running Windows 11 and then make the transition to Windows 11 in the summer of 2023. As of mid-December 2022, we still have 5 of our 14 computers which need to be upgraded to run Windows 11. By taking advantage of online sales, discount coupons via TechSoup, purchasing refurbished machines via Dell Outlet and cascading older machines to lesser-used roles, we plan to maximize our purchasing power to achieve our goal. Our current estimate, subject to Trustees approval in 2023, is to spend about \$4900 to purchase new and refurbished computers in 2023. The current balance of the Technology Fund is about \$6300, so we have enough money already in place to accomplish this goal. We expect the salvage value of the 5 computers we are replacing and one additional computer currently for sale will boost the Technology Fund balance a bit beyond its current \$6300 balance.



Christmas VBS: The Journey to Bethlehem



This year's Christmas VBS went very well. The kids learned about the journey Mary and Joseph took to Bethlehem and the struggles they faced, the shepherds learning about the birth of Jesus, and the Wise Men visiting the newborn King. They also had a lot of fun creating edible nativity scenes, planning Jesus' birthday party, and making ornaments to remember the birth of Jesus. I want to thank everyone for the donations and items that we were able to borrow to make this year's VBS such a success.



United
Women
in Faith

You're Invited



Want to learn more about United Women in Faith?

Join us for an informational
breakfast gathering on

Saturday, January 7th at 9:00 am

Sandy Wilder of First UMC Austin
will be our guest speaker

Fellowship, food and door prizes!

<https://uwfaith.org/>

The purpose of this gathering on Jan 7th at 9 am is to explore growing a United Women of Faith community.

The mission of UWF is to connect and nurture women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship and education so that they can inspire, influence and impact local and global communities. UWF focuses on women, children and youth, acting for justice and transformation of communities.

Our guest speaker is Sandy Wilder from First UMC Austin, who (like Sue) has served in various leadership positions in UMW (predecessor to UWF)

THANK
you

Dear Church Family:

Thanks so much for the basket of books you gave my new grandson Simon. It was such a thoughtful gift. I am sure we will spend many hours reading to him. Maybe even the same books over and over. You are such dear people, and our whole family will enjoy sharing this lovely present with Simon.

Appreciatively,

Pastor Peter

MEMBERS from p. 1

Q: Do you have a particular hobby? Is there one you want to learn?

A: My hobbies are handcrafts.

Q: What's your favorite restaurant or favorite meal?

A: One of my favorite restaurants is IHOP. I love their Beef Tips.

Q: Where is your favorite vacation locale?

A: The Caribbean.

Q: I'd rather do anything besides

A: being idle.

Q: Tell us something we might not know about you!

A: I have never driven a car!

Church Finance Report

The Church's operating fund status through November 30, 2022 is summarized below. Contributions to the Church were very generous in November. As a result the Church is now in the black for the year through November. The Church continues to have adequate cash reserves to meet its financial obligations.

Financial status through November 30, 2022

Total Income:	\$ 251,777.21
Total expenses:	<u>\$ 250,198.90</u>
Net Income/deficit:	\$ 1,578.31

Church Contacts

Find us online at cpfumc.org
or call the church Tues-Thurs between 9 and 2 at (512) 335-9540

Want to contact a Church Leader or submit something for a future Newsletter?

Pastor Peter Castles

peter@cpfumc.org

Assoc. Pastor/Youth Dir. Suzette Thorpe Johnson

suzette@cpfumc.org

Church Council Chair Meg McClintock

margaretmcclintock5@gmail.com

Music Director/Pianist Jodi Blount

jodi_blount@hotmail.com

Newsletter Editor Jill Lundstrom

lund121@me.com

Be sure to put "Newsletter" in the subject for Connections submissions!



CPFUMC Calendar January 2023

Click [here](#) to go to the most up to date online calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 NO BE LIGHT YOUTH 9:45am - No Sunday 10am - Combined 10am - One Combined In-	2 4pm - Piano Lessons - 7pm - TRUSTEES In- 7:30pm - Centering	3 9:30am - Morning Prayer 10am - Bible Study 10am - HCCM 11am - Prayer Shawl	4 4pm - Piano Lessons -	5 3:30pm - Piano Lessons -	6 10:30am - Women's 4:30pm - Piano Lessons - 7:30pm - Alcoholics	7 9am - Live Streaming
8 8:30am - In-Person 9:45am - SS in-person & 10:45am - In-Person 10:45am - Livestream	9 4pm - Piano Lessons - 7:30pm - Centering	10 9:30am - Morning Prayer 10am - Bible Study 10am - HCCM 11am - Prayer Shawl	11 4pm - Piano Lessons -	12 3:30pm - Piano Lessons -	13 MidWinters Retreat YOUTH Capital District 10:30am - Women's 4:30pm - Piano Lessons - 7:30pm - Alcoholics	14
15 MidWinters Retreat 8:30am - In-Person 9:45am - SS in-person & 10:45am - In-Person 10:45am - Livestream	16 4pm - Piano Lessons - 7:30pm - Centering	17 9:30am - Morning Prayer 10am - Bible Study 10am - HCCM 5:30pm - Prayer Shawl	18 10:30am - Mbrshp, Care 4pm - Piano Lessons - 6:30pm - Buckle & Bows	19 3:30pm - Piano Lessons -	20 10:30am - Women's 4:30pm - Piano Lessons - 7:30pm - Alcoholics	21
22 8:30am - In-Person 9:45am - SS in-person & 10:45am - In-Person 10:45am - Livestream	23 4pm - Piano Lessons - 6:30pm - Council Meeting 7:30pm - Centering	24 9:30am - Morning Prayer 10am - Bible Study 10am - HCCM 11am - Prayer Shawl	25 4pm - Piano Lessons -	26 3:30pm - Piano Lessons -	27 NEWSLETTER Input Due 10:30am - Women's 4:30pm - Piano Lessons - 7:30pm - Alcoholics	28
29 8:30am - In-Person 9:45am - SS in-person & 10:45am - In-Person 10:45am - Livestream	30 4pm - Piano Lessons - 7:30pm - Centering	31 9:30am - Morning Prayer 10am - Bible Study 10am - HCCM 11am - Prayer Shawl	1 4pm - Piano Lessons -	2 3:30pm - Piano Lessons -	3 10:30am - Women's 4:30pm - Piano Lessons - 7:30pm - Alcoholics	4